

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. (Currently amended) An alkaline battery comprising: a negative electrode including an electrode mixture that contains a zinc or zinc alloy powder as an active material; an alkaline electrolyte; and a positive electrode,

wherein said zinc or zinc alloy powder has a specific surface area of 0.01 to 10 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and the weight ratio of ~~said electrolyte~~ the alkaline electrolyte contained in the battery to the active material (electrolyte/negative electrode active material) is in the range of 0.1 to 2, and

said electrode mixture contains 0.15 to 0.9 wt% of lithium hydroxide.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The alkaline battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein said zinc or zinc alloy powder has a specific surface area of 0.1 to 5 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and the weight ratio of ~~said electrolyte~~ the alkaline electrolyte contained in the battery to the active material is in the range of 0.2 to 0.7.